

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 NEA-10 SY-05 A-01  
OPR-02 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 PM-04  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /077 W  
-----271322 066384 /42

O 271253Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5982  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03549

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR CASC UG GW US  
SUBJECT: UGANDA: MEETING WITH AMERICANS POSTPONED

FOLLOWING MESSAGE (FRG NUMBER 84) RECEIVED FROM  
AMBASSADOR ELLERKMAN 1130Z 27 FEBRUARY.

BEGIN TEXT

1. RADIO KAMPALA ANNOUNCED MORNING OF 27/2/77 THAT  
AMIN'S MEETING WITH AMERICANS IS POSTPONED TO WEDNESDAY  
2 MARCH SAME PLACE, SAME HOUR BECAUSE AMERICANS, SOME  
OF WHICH LIVED 500 KM AWAY FROM KAMPALA, HAD REQUESTED  
SO BECAUSE OF TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES. FROM ANNOUNCEMENT  
IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER NEW MEETING IS IN CONFERENCE  
CENTER AT 11:00 A.M. OR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT  
8:00 A.M.

2. MOTIVE FOR NEW CHANGE IS NOT CLEAR. SINCE GOVERNORS  
AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO ASSIST  
AMERICANS IN COMING TO KAMPALA, REASON GIVEN IS NOT  
VERY CONVINCING. IT SEEMS THAT AMIN WISHES TO GIVE  
FUNCTION EVEN MORE WORLDWIDE ATTENTION AS OF NOW. IT  
ALSO COULD BE THAT HE WANTS TO INCLUDE OTHER NATION-

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ALITIES AND REQUEST THEM ALSO TO HAND HIM MEMORANDUM ON  
SITUATION IN UGANDA. HOWEVER, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT  
REASONS OF PUBLICITY AND ORGANIZING MEETING ARE BEHIND  
POSTPONEMENT.

3. IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT ARAB ADVISORS WISH TO  
INFLUENCE AMIN TO USE FUNCTION FOR THEIR PURPOSES AND TO

INDUCE HIM TO GET RID OF MISSIONARIES AMONG AMERICANS BY ASKING THEM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IN PLANES MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM ON SPOT. I SHOULD MENTIONED THAT LAST NIGHT AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION SOMALI AMBASSADOR ASKED ME HOW MANY GERMANS LIVE IN UGANDA AND HOW MANY OF THEM ARE MISSIONARIES.

4. ANY OTHER MOTIVE FOR CHANGE OF VENUE TO ENTEBBE AIRPORT I CANNOT SEE. I WOULD EXCLUDE THAT AMERICANS ARE TAKEN HOSTAGES FOR ANY POLITICAL OR OTHER REASON. AMIN IT SEEMS TO ME WISHES THREE THINGS: (1) TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, (2) REOPENING OF US EMBASSY IN KAMPALA, AND (3) TO DIVERT WORLD OPINION FROM KILLING IN UGANDA. TO REACH THIS HE -- IN HIS WAY -- FRIGHTENS AND SHOCKS FIRST AND THEN HAS HIS BIG, FRIENDLY SHOW WITH WESTERN TELEVISION PRESENT. HE MIGHT EVEN TRY NOW TO GET HIGH-RANKING VISITOR FROM THE US, PREFERABLY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SIMPLE REASON THAT FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE AVOIDED HIM DURING HIS AFRICAN TOUR, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF OUA.

5. IT IS REPEATED THAT THIS EMBASSY DOES NOT SEE ANY DANGER FOR SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA, UNLESS SITUATION IS ESCALATED BY UNFRIENDLY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OR SPECULATIONS IN WESTERN PRESS OF MILITARY INTERVENTION BY AMERICANS.

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OPR-02 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 PM-04  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /077 W  
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O 271253Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5983  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03549

6. THIS EMBASSY WILL DISSEMINATE AMONG AMERICANS  
MESSAGE BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRANSMITTED IN CABLE  
NO. 42 OF 27 FEBRUARY, AS REQUESTED (BONN 3542;  
STATE 43648).

7. I SHALL TRY TO REACH ACTING MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
PS LUBEGA TODAY TO GET APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT TO  
DELIVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE (INSTRUCTION NO. 823  
OF 27/2/77 -- STATE 43679). I AT SAME TIME WILL REPEAT  
REQUEST TO BE INVITED TO AMIN'S MEETING WITH AMERICANS.  
I DO NOT THINK IT IS GOOD IDEA TO SUGGEST THAT ALSO  
FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND ITALIAN CHARGE ARE INVITED.  
FRENCH EMBASSY IS IN CHARGE OF BRITISH, ITALIAN EMBASSY  
OF ISRAELI INTERESTS AND THEREFORE THEIR REQUEST MIGHT BE  
MISINTERPRETED BY AMIN. IF MEETING WITH AMERICANS WILL  
BECOME BIG FRIENDLY AFFAIR AS IS EXPECTED, THEN  
ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WILL BE INVITED ANYHOW. IT IS  
RECALLED THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS REFUSED TO ATTEND  
AMIN'S SIMILAR MEETING WITH BRITISH IN AUGUST 1976,  
BECAUSE HE -- AMIN -- FELT THAT HE COULD HANDLE BRITISH  
INTERESTS BETTER. THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE PEACEFUL  
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AND HAPPY END OF AFFAIR WOULD BE TO SEND HIGH RANKING  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM UNITED STATES (SENATOR, CABINET  
MEMBER OR UNDER SECRETARY) OR ONE OF THE NEW BLACK-  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES, EVEN IF THAT IS DIFFICULT  
TO JUSTIFY BEFORE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

8. AMIN'S OFFER TO AMERICANS THAT THEY MAY OPT FOR  
UGANDA CITIZENSHIP SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY.  
AMIN HAS DONE THIS IN MANY CASES, WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP  
REALLY PASSED TO RESPECTIVE PERSONS. AMERICANS WHO HAVE  
CONTACTED THIS EMBASSY SAID THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT  
UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP AND EXPLAIN TO AMIN THAT THEY  
WOULD LOSE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP BY ACCEPTING  
ANOTHER.

9. EMBASSY MAINTAINS THAT THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM  
FOR LIFE OR SECURITY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN UGANDA  
UNLESS AMIN IS PROVOKED BY ANY WRONG MOVE. END TEXT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** UGANDA: MEETING WITH AMERICANS POSTPONED FOLLOWING MESSAGE (FRG NUMBER 84) RECEIVED FROM AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN 1130Z 27 FEBRUARY.  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CASC, UG, GE, US, (AMIN DADA, IDI)  
**To:** STATE NAIROBI  
**Type:** TE  
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